20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 20

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

FLYNN • LAWRENCE • CURRY

SEGA®

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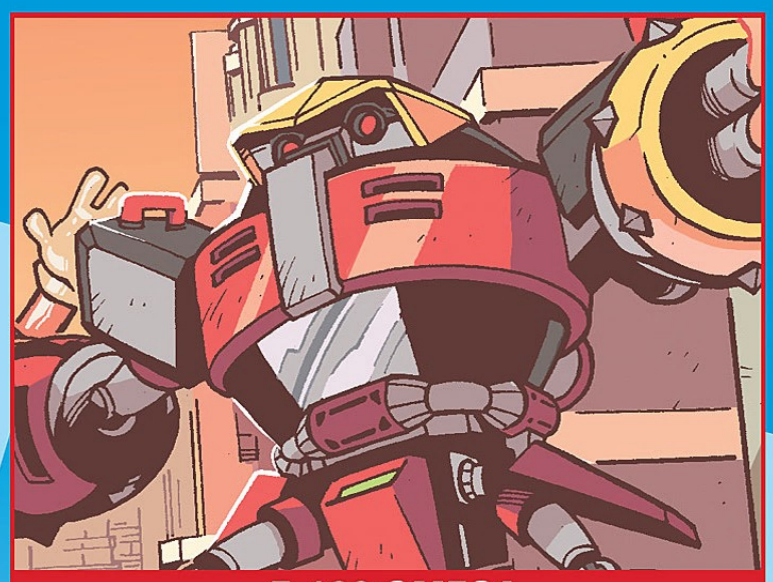
TORY SO FAR..

gman has returned with one of his most sinister plots yet: th
Virus! The Metal Virus infects living organic matter and turns
mbie-like robots (Zombots) that can infect others and that
d only to Eggman's command. As the Metal Virus spreads,
and heroes–including Sonic himself–are infected. As Sonic a
nds attempt to save Sunset City, another falls victim... can
survive Shadow the Zombot?!

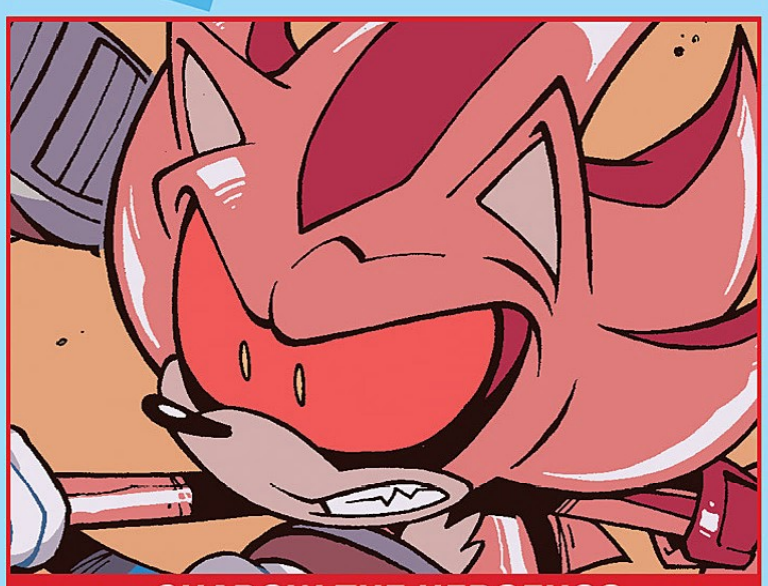
ROLL CALL

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.



E-123 OMEGA
Rogue Super Badnik.
Robot hunter.

ROGUE THE BAT
Treasure-hunting Spy.
Restoration ally.



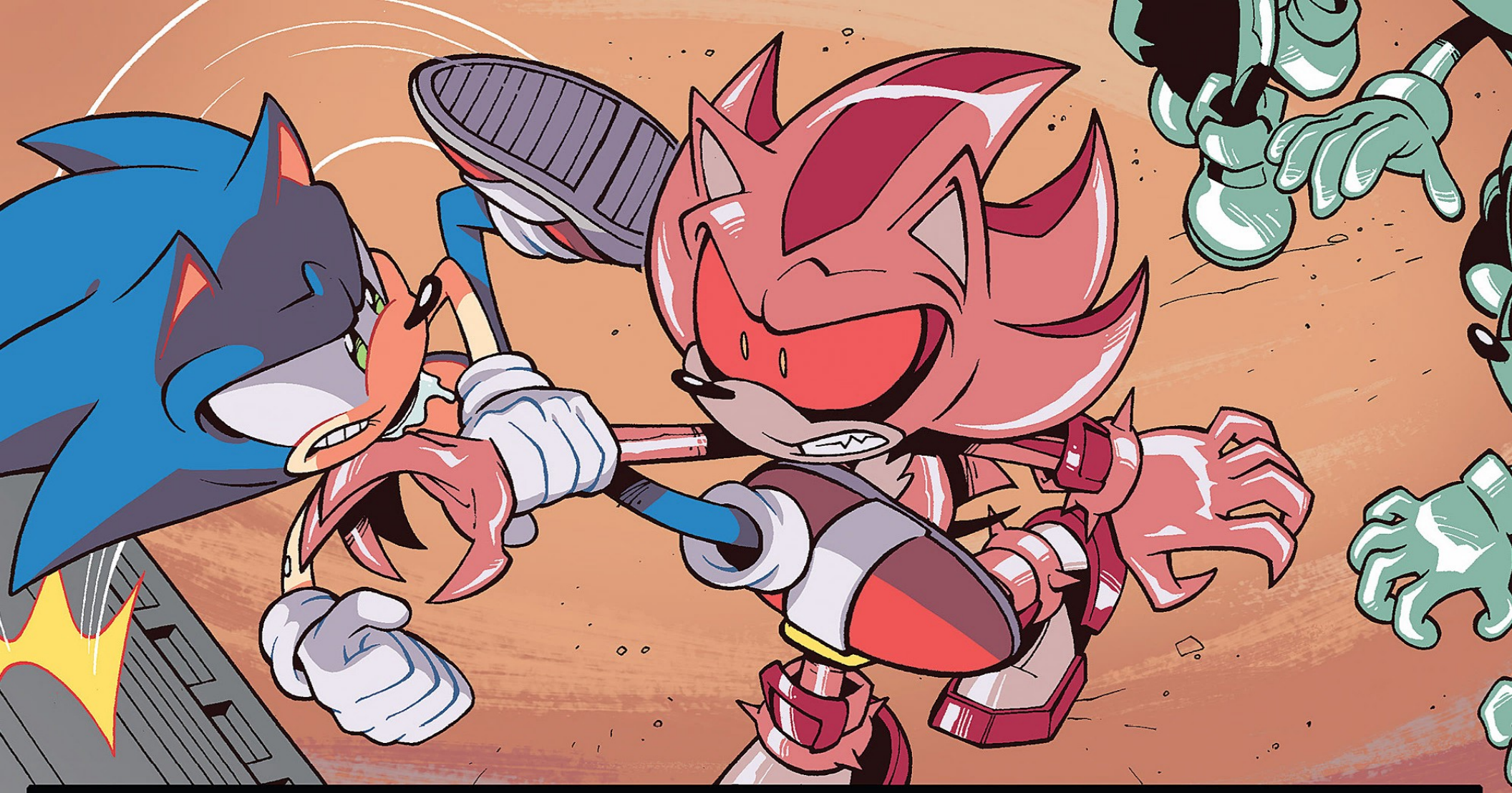
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
The Ultimate Lifeform.
Newly infected Zombot.

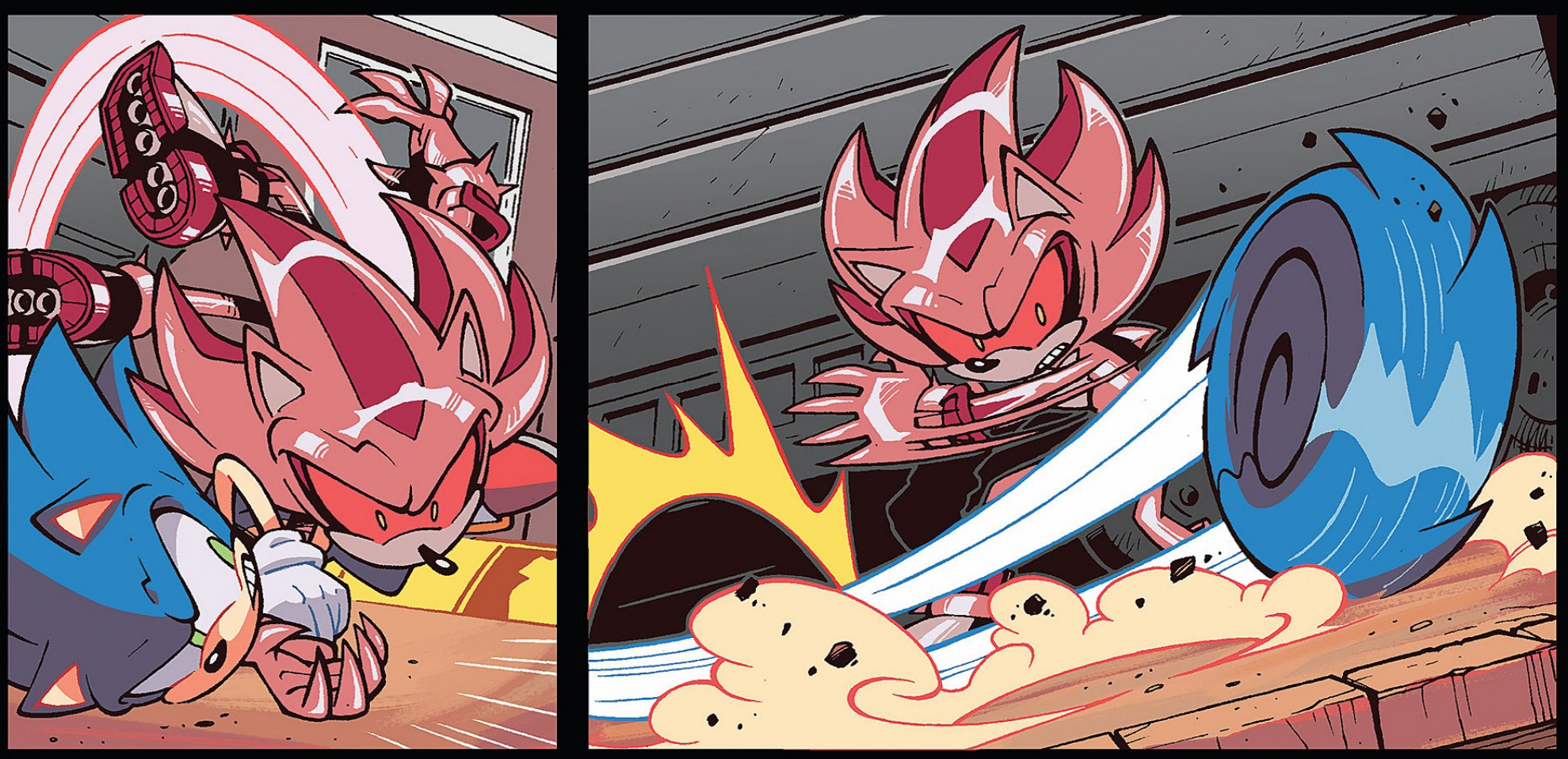
SUNSET CITY.

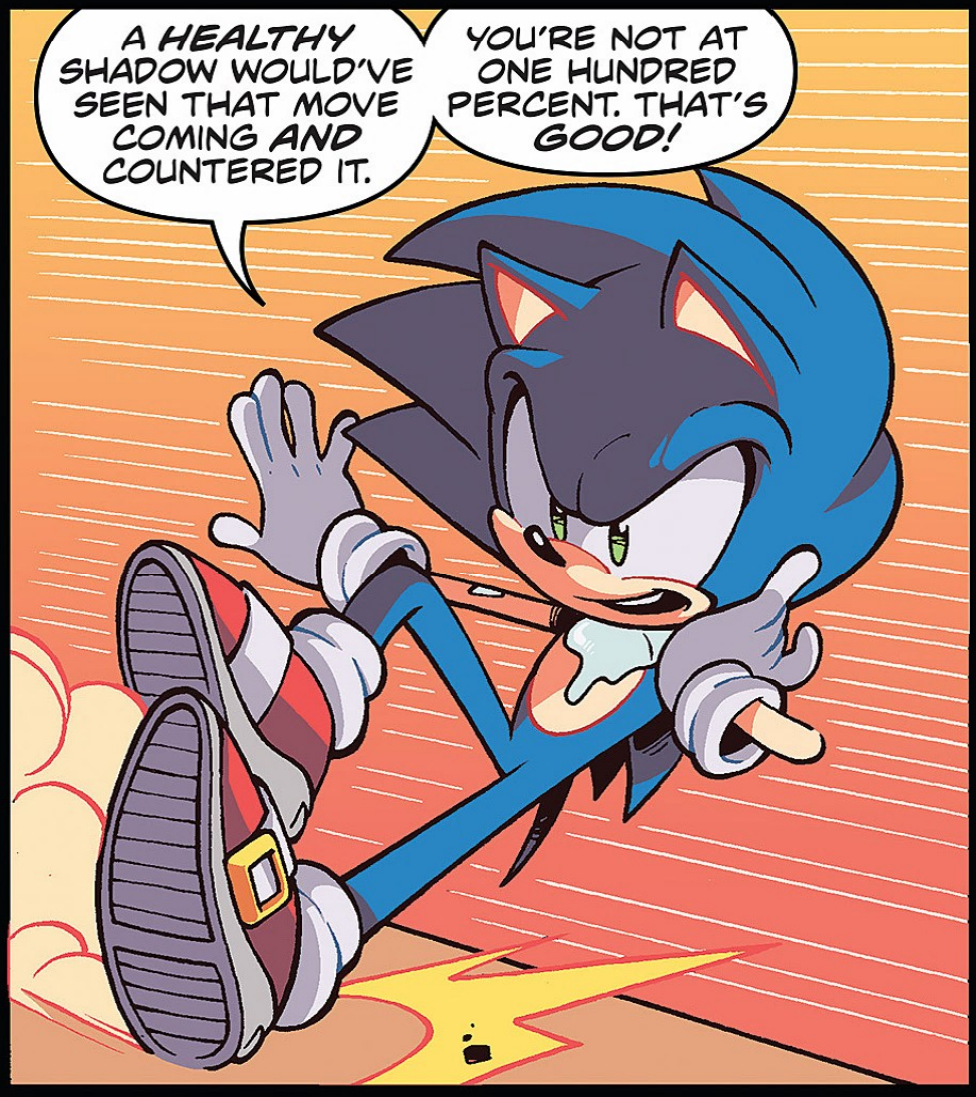
THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE ON THE ZOMBOTS WITH RAW POWER ALONE, DIDN'T YOU, SHADOW?

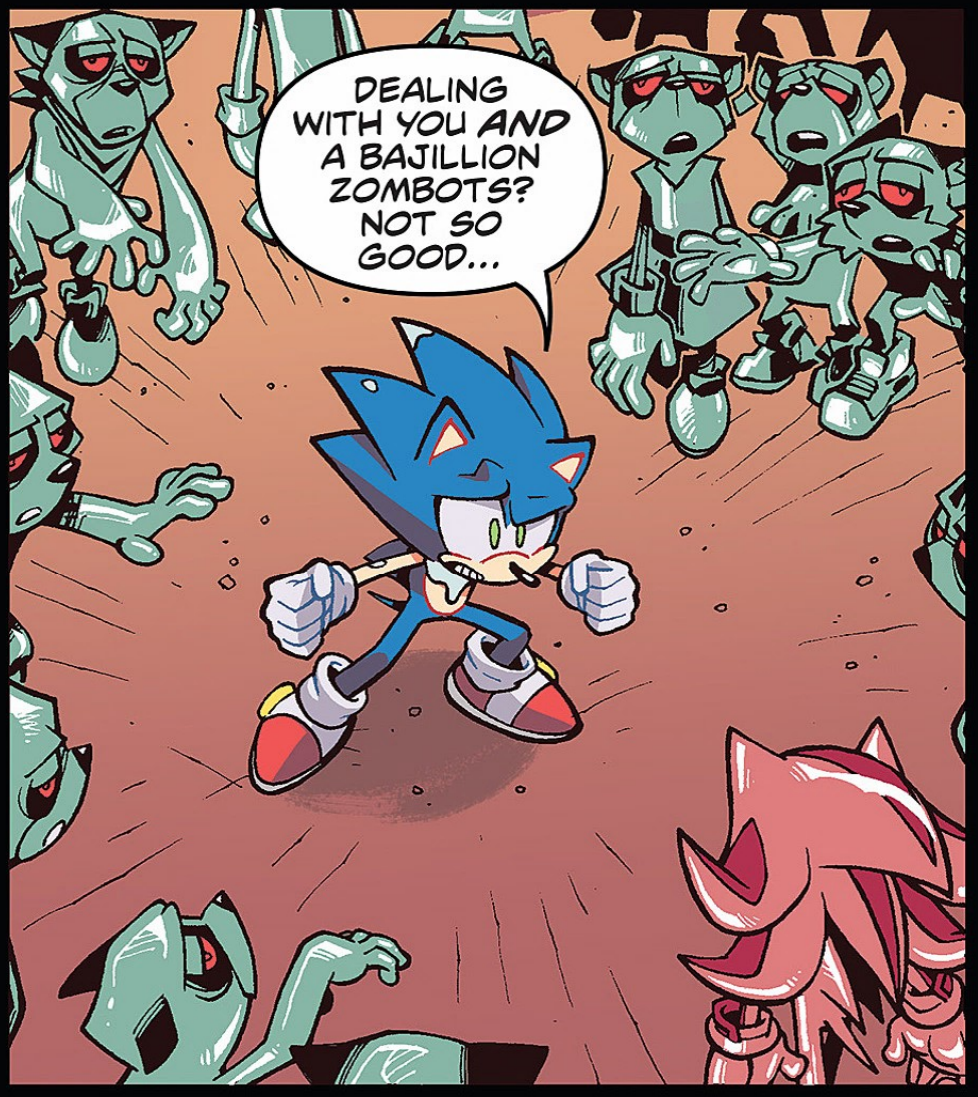
NOW YOU'RE FULLY CONVERTED, WHILE I CAN RUN OFF MY INFECTION. I CAN'T WAIT TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO.

IF YOU DON'T =GRK= CRUSH MY WINDPIPE FIRST...






A HEALTHY SHADOW WOULD'VE SEEN THAT MOVE COMING AND COUNTERED IT.
YOU'RE NOT AT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT. THAT'S GOOD!


DEALING WITH YOU AND A BAJILLION ZOMBOTS? NOT SO GOOD...

UP HIGH!

CRACK

DOWN LOW...

...YOU'RE TOO SLOW!

POW

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN KEEP UP LIKE THIS—

—AND PROTECT A TRUCKLOAD OF UNINFECTED SITTING *RIGHT THERE.*

IS EVERYONE LOADED UP?

THEN GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL COVER YOU!

WE JUST FINISHED!

THANK GOODNESS FOR THESE NOBLE, SELF-SACRIFICING TYPES!

HONK HOOOOONK

NEVER FOUGHT A WHOLE CITY SOLO BEFORE. THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING!

WHUD

WELL, WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO DECIDED TO STAY BEHIND AND HELP!

NEGATIVE. EGGMAN'S ROBOTS REMAIN. THIS MUST BE CORRECTED. VIOLENTLY.

I'M CALLING IT "HELP", AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

URGE TO MAIM– *RISING!*

WAIT A MINUTE. WHERE DID SHADOW...?

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE HE NOTICED THE SURVIVORS!

NOT SO FAST WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK YOUR ROCKET SKATES, ARE YA?

YOU'RE STILL FASTER THAN YOUR AVERAGE ZOMBOT, THOUGH...

...SO WE'LL JUST REDIRECT YOU BACK TO THE PARTY!

THUD

THUMP

OBSERVATION: YOUR INFECTION IS SPREADING.

UGH... YEAH, TANGLING WITH ALL THE ZOMBOTS IS MAKING IT WORSE.

ASSESSMENT: YOU SHOULD LEAVE.

I THINK THE TRUCK ISN'T FAR ENOUGH AWAY, AND I'M NOT LEAVING ANOTHER FRIEND BEHIND WHILE I GO ON A TREATMENT-RUN.

WE ARE NOT FRIENDS. YOU ARE IN THE WAY OF MY MASSACRE.

YOU CAN'T DESTROY THE ZOMBOTS! SO INSTEAD OF WASTING AMMO, HOW ABOUT WE GET OUT OF HERE WHILE I'VE STILL GOT ENOUGH ENERGY TO RUN?

NO RETREAT! NO MERCY!

SMASH

HOLD ON! THAT'S SHADOW!

NEGATIVE. HE IS ANOTHER EGGMAN ROBOT. HE WILL BE DESTROYED.

THIS IS GETTING OUT OF CONTROL!

MUST! DESTROY! ALL! ZRRK!

SHRNK

SMACK

=HRNG= C'MON, MAN! SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN TO BE MIND-CONTROLLED!

OMEGA! IT'S NO GOOD! WE'VE GOT TO RETREAT!

VICTORY OR DEATH!

I GOTTA RUN... BUT THEY'RE EVERYWHERE...

SONIC!

I'VE CLEARED YOU A PATH! RUN!

THE TORNADO IS JUST OUTSIDE OF THE CITY TO THE EAST! MEET US THERE!

WHOOSH

SONIC'S CLEAR! DROP THOSE ZOMBOTS AND COVER ME WHILE I GO FOR OMEGA!

ON IT!

OBSERVATION: YOU ARE STRONG TO LIFT ALL MY MASS SO EFFORTLESSLY.

YEEEEEAH... ABOUT THAT...

YOW!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

Y-YEAH!

LATER—
RESTORATION HQ.

=SIIIIGH=

MR. SONIC? WE HAVE A SAFE WAY IN READY FOR YOU.

THANKS, CREAM. SORRY FOR BEING A PAIN.

OH, NO! YOU'RE NOT A PAIN!

ISN'T IT PAST YOUR BEDTIME?

YES, BUT MOTHER LET ME STAY UP SO I COULD HELP.

AND I'VE BEEN HAVING LOTS OF BAD DREAMS LATELY.

THERE ARE SO MANY REFUGEES FROM THE ATTACKS, AND NOT A LOT OF ROOM FOR THEM. EVERYONE IS SCARED AND SAD...

...SO I'VE BEEN BRINGING THEM SNACKS AND SWEETS! I'M TRYING MY HARDEST TO BE HAPPY, SO THEY CAN BE A LITTLE HAPPY, TOO!

YOU'RE THE BRAVEST HERO HERE, CREAM. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

I WILL!

MISS ROSE'S OFFICE IS RIGHT THROUGH HERE.

THANKS.

HEY, GEMERL! LOOKS LIKE TAILS FIXED YOU UP.

CORRECT.

ENTRY DENIED.

DON'T START WITH ME, G. I'VE HAD A *VERY* LONG DAY.

GEMERL! BE NICE!

SONIC IS INFECTED. HE IS A BIOHAZARD TO THE RESTORATION'S ADMINISTRATOR.

MISS ROSE ASKED TO SPEAK WITH HIM! YOU *HAVE* TO LET HIM IN!

ACKNOWLEDGED. ALLOWING ADMITTANCE.

THANKS, CREAM.

YOU'RE WELCOME! GOOD NIGHT, MR. SONIC!

GIVEN THAT IT'S THE "METAL VIRUS", I'M PRETTY SURE I'M A "*MECHA*HAZARD."

ACKNOWLEDGED. LOGGING UNDER "SASS."

YOU DO THAT.

ECHO-FIVE! WE'VE GOT A CALL FOR EVAC IN CASCADE CITY! ECHO-SEVEN! WE NEED THAT SUPPLY DROP ASAP!

YO, ROUGE. PLAYING SECRETARY?

PLANNING MY NEXT MOVE.

SHADOW?

HE'S... GONE. I'M SORRY.

THE IDIOT SHOULD'VE RUN WHEN I TOLD HIM TO.

HEY AMY. YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

SONIC! YES! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY!

I'M STILL STANDING. I'D LIKE A NICE, THREE WEEK NAP. HOW ARE YOU?

I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN—

SAY AGAIN, ECHO-ELEVEN? *WHAT?!* W-WELL... TRY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE!

ECHO-THREE! ECHO-THIRTEEN! ECHO-ELEVEN WENT DOWN ON TURTLESHELL ISLAND! THEY NEED *IMMEDIATE* SUPPORT!

ECHO-THREE, DO YOU COPY?

HAS ANYONE HEARD FROM ECHO-THREE?!

VECTOR! ESPIO! WHAT'S UP?

SLEEPING SHIFT IS OVER, SO WE'RE BACK TO IT. FINDING SURVIVORS. FINDING SUPPLIES.

HOPEFULLY WE'LL RUN INTO CHARMY AND BE ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK SAFELY...

YOU SURE BRINGING CHARMY BACK IS A GOOD IDEA?

ABOUT AS GOOD AN IDEA AS *YOU* BEING IN HERE.

I'M BEING CAREFUL!

ARE YOU? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SLEPT?

IT'S... BEEN A WHILE. I CAN ONLY AFFORD LITTLE NAPS.

OTHERWISE, THE INFECTION MIGHT SPREAD AND... Y'KNOW.

ANYWAY, TAILS WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT SOME PLAN. BE SAFE OUT THERE, CHAOTIX.

YOU, TOO.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

SONIC! I WONDERED WHERE YOU WERE!

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU TWO, I'D BE SHUFFLING AROUND WITH THE SHINY MASSES.

THANKS. I REALLY OWE YOU ONE.

OH? KEEPING COUNT NOW?

ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT'S TWO YOU OWE ME.

WELL, *YOU* CLEARLY AREN'T.

I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND LATELY.

FOR INSTANCE—YOU SAID WHEN YOU RETURNED TO THE FUTURE, THE WORLD WAS ALL METALLIC AND LIFELESS. DO YOU THINK IT WAS THE METAL VIRUS?*

I'M SURE OF IT. AND WHILE THINGS ARE BAD NOW, HOPEFULLY BY MY BEING HERE, WE CAN FIND A WAY TO STOP IT FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD.

*STH #8.

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU MENTIONING THE ZOMBOTS, THOUGH.

THAT'S THE THING—I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE.

HOPEFULLY WE WON'T NEED TO SOLVE *THAT* MYSTERY.

HOW'S IT HANGING, OMEGA?

CORE PROCESSOR AND OPERATING SYSTEM INTACT. RAGE OPERATING AT 110% CAPACITY.

YOU THINK YOU CAN REBUILD HIM?

EGGMAN TECH IS NOTORIOUSLY WEIRD. I THINK I CAN BUILD SOMETHING COMPARABLE AND INSTALL HIS HEAD INTO IT, THOUGH.

ONCE I HAVE THE TIME AND SUPPLIES, OF COURSE.

INSTALL A JAW MECHANISM. I WILL BITE THEIR ANKLES OFF.

I'LL... KEEP THAT IN MIND.

TODAY WAS A CLOSE CALL. *TOO* CLOSE. ARE WE *ANY* CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT THE METAL VIRUS?

NO. THE ANALYSIS WE TOOK OF YOU WASN'T ROBUST ENOUGH.* *BUT* I THINK I HAVE A SOLUTION.

RIGHT, YOU SAID YOU HAD A PLAN. I'LL HELP ANY WAY I CAN.

*STH #16.

YOUR SPEED IS COMBATING THE METAL VIRUS SOMEHOW. NOT COMPLETELY, BUT IT CONSISTENTLY BEATS IT BACK.

I'M WORKING ON A SENSOR THAT WILL READ YOUR BIOMETRICS WHILE YOU RUN. HOPEFULLY IT'LL GIVE US MORE INSIGHT INTO THE METAL VIRUS AND HOW IT'S REACTING TO YOUR SYSTEM.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE COMPUTERS HERE CAN'T HANDLE THAT KIND OF DATA. I'VE GOT A LAB IN CENTRAL CITY THAT CAN—IF EGGMAN DOESN'T ATTACK THERE.

IF THAT HAPPENS, IT'LL BE DICEY GETTING IN THERE AND DOING THE ANALYSIS.

DON'T WORRY! I'LL COVER YOU!

AND IF YOU'RE CALLED AWAY TO HELP SOMEWHERE ELSE?

THEN... UM... WE'LL JUST HOPE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

SILVER'S RIGHT. WE'VE GOT TO STAY OPTIMISTIC.

AND WITH THIS DOO-HICKEY OF YOURS, I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FINALLY SEE THINGS TURN FOR THE BETTER!

YEAH! YOU GET ME THE DATA, I'LL PROCESS IT TO FIND A CURE, AND AMY WILL COORDINATE EVERYTHING FROM HERE.

YOUR FUTURE IS AS GOOD AS SAVED!

MEANWHILE—ON EGGMAN'S FLYING FORTRESS, THE FACESHIP...

=SIGH= I HATE TO ADMIT THIS, BUT EGGMAN HAS *NO PLAN* TO CONTROL THE METAL VIRUS.

WE'RE SCHEDULED TO TEST OVERRIDE SIGNALS TOMORROW, BUT...

EGGMAN HAS OVERLOOKED OR FORGOTTEN SO MANY OF HIS ASSETS. PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING HE'S USED IN THE PAST THAT CAN HELP?

WHAT'S THIS? "THE LOST WORLD PROJECT"?

"I FOUND THE HIDDEN PLANETOID OF *LOST HEX* AND MADE IT THE BASE OF MY LATEST SCHEME."

"USING AN ANCIENT RELIC, I TOOK CONTROL OF LOST HEX'S NATIVES—THE *ZETI*—AND MADE THEM MY ENFORCERS."

"THEN THAT MEDDLESOME SONIC ARRIVED TO RUIN EVERYTHING. HE STUPIDLY LIBERATED MY *DEADLY SIX* AND THEY..."

"...TOOK TOTAL CONTROL OF MY ROBOTS WITH THEIR ELECTRO-MAGNETIC POWERS."

A RACE OF BEINGS THAT CAN *WILL* ROBOTS INTO OBEDIENCE?

YES... *YES!* WHY FIND A WAY TO CONTROL MILLIONS WHEN WE CAN SHEPHERD THEM ALL WITH JUST *SIX*...

NEXT TIME: A TRIO OF TALES AS EVERYTHING COMES DOWN TO "THE LAST MINUTE"!

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello Squad! Geez! Our heroes are really in rough shape, huh? Friends being infected, Sonic almost fully giving in to the Metal Virus, Omega being torn apart! Any one of those would be a lot for one adventure, but with everything else going on, looks like everyone's going to have to try even harder to save the world! Well, at least with a little help, Sonic escaped "Crisis City, Part 2" by Ian Flynn, Jack Lawrence, Shawn Lee, and Bracardi Curry! Now let's get to your awesome submissions!

Hi, I am Delina, I am 14, and I am deaf. I use a cochlear implant that helps me hear. I am my own superhero and my cochlear implants give me the power to hear, just like Sonic has the power of speed. I've been a Sonic fan since I was six years old, but I fell in love with Sonic all over again two years ago. I play Sonic Boom non-stop every single day. I have also been collecting comic books since I was 12. I have every issue. I read them every day. I have even read some issues more than once. I am a super Sonic fan. After I finished the Sonic Forces game, I got an idea. I wanted to draw a picture that would show what things would be like after the war. I imagined myself in the game and created a character with cochlear implants; On day one, I drew a flower that shows BRAVERY, day five is the flower growing, which means to BELIEVE in yourself; and day 10 is about FRIENDSHIP, my character makes friends with Sonic. When I grow up, I want to be an animator. Maybe I could work for SEGA and help draw comics or make video games. I hope you like the work I did and I look forward to hearing from you.

Keep up the awesome work!

Hi Delina,

Wow! You really are a super Sonic fan (but are you Super Sonic fan?)! You have an awesome superpower and great art skills. That little comic is awesome, and I think works really well with our stories! A flower like that would fit in great with Silver's garden! Keep working on little stories like that which get to the heart of what Sonic's about–bravery, believing in yourself, and friendship–and you'll be on track to get any job you want!

Art by Delina Mengesha

Art by Zachary Looman

I'm Zach, I'm 13 and have loved Sonic for quite some time now, so can I just say that, man, this comic is good! I love it! The writing is great, the art is great, everything is great! I've been drawing a lot of Sonic recently so I thought I'd include one of my pieces. Sonic looks a little different, but I think it's fine. I have one question though: is there a way to subscribe to just the Sonic comic alone, and if there is, can you tell me how? Thanks! Love the new series!

Zachary Looman

Hi Zach,

Glad you're enjoying the comic! And, yeah, your Sonic does look a little different, but that's a really cool design! My only note: Sonic doesn't wear pants–at least not in this comic. A lot of people have asked if there's a way to subscribe to Sonic and there is, so let me walk you through it!

1. You can subscribe digitally via the IDW Comics app or Comixology!

2. You can subscribe physically at your local comic shop by asking them to add Sonic to your pull list!

Unfortunately, IDW doesn't offer a direct physical comic subscription, but we try to make it easy to use one of the other two methods and always get your books!

Hello,

My name is Sonny, I love your comics. I am seven years old, and I love Sonic the Hedgehog the most. I have been a Sonic fan for a long time, and your comics have inspired me to write my own. It's my very favorite thing to do. Thanks for the great stories and the inspiration! Keep it up!

Sonny

Hi Sonny,

That's great! I'm glad our stories have inspired you to make your own! Y'know, making up your own Sonic stories and doing your own Sonic art just for fun is how most of the team making the comics now first got into Sonic! People like writer Ian Flynn and artists like Evan

Art by Sonny

Stanley and Nathalie Fourdraine got their start making Sonic fan art and fan comics. Now, they really write and draw Sonic's adventures! Keep up your own good work!

Hey, Sonic comic team!

I've been loving the story. Flynn is a great writer, and the art is amazing. I particularly liked the expressions by Lawrence in #15.

I'm wondering, will we see anything like the Off-Panel in this series? Will there be a continual side-series like Sonic Universe, or just mini-series like Tangle and Whisper?

Thank you for your time. Keep up the good work!

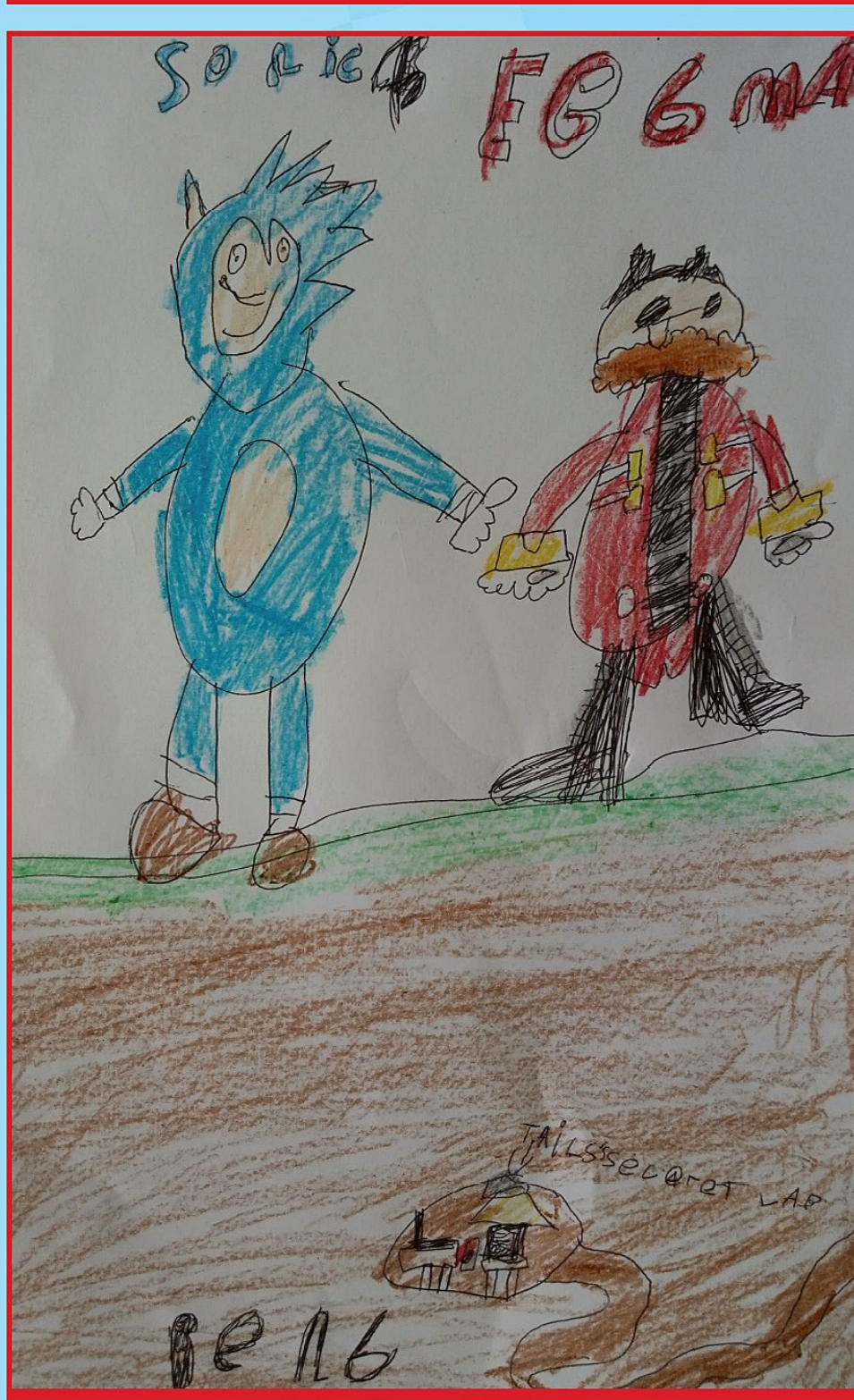
Olivia P.

Hi Olivia,

Glad you're enjoying the series! Yeah, that Jack Lawrence certainly is something! Just to brag about Jack for a second, he told us that he drew almost 600 zombots in issue #19! He and Bracardi really did an amazing job with those crowd scenes! As per other series and stories and books, that all really depends. We really love funny short stories (Caleb Goellner's comic about writing Team Sonic Racing in the Deluxe Turbo Championship Edition is super great)! We really love doing a mini-series for Tangle & Whisper. We really love the 2019 Annual. We're definitely planning on doing more with Sonic, because you the fans have given us such a good response to what we're doing, but until you hear otherwise, we'll play it by ear to see what stories we can best tell in different formats. No plans in place for a regular feature, but if that makes sense going forward sometime, we'll consider it!

And with that, I think we're good for this time time! Don't forget to send your art and letters to *letters@idwpublishing.com*, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next issue, we're kicking off something even crazier than Crisis City: join us for "The Last Minute, Part 1", the first of three issues set simultaneously! And don't forget to pick up Sonic: Tangle & Whisper #2, also on sale this month!

Art by Jonathan Bushay



Art by Ben O'Sullivan

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ISSUE 1

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TANGLE & WHISPER

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TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

FLYNN • STANLEY • HERMS

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SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG
TANGLE & WHISPER

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ARTIST **EVAN STANLEY**

COLORIST **MATT HERMS**

LETTERER **SHAWN LEE**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **MEGAN BROWN**

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SPIRAL HILL VILLAGE.

C'MON EVERYONE! IT'S A GORGEOUS DAY!

RACE YA AROUND THE VILLAGE! ANYONE! EVERYONE!

TANGLE!

HEY-HEY, *JEWEL!* ABOUT TIME YOU GOT OUT OF THAT STUFFY OL' MUSEUM!

BECAUSE YOU NEARLY KNOCKED THE SIGN OFF FROM OVER MY DOOR. AND YOU'RE GOING TO RUN INTO SOMEBODY.

PSSHT! I'VE BEEN FLINGING MYSELF AROUND THESE STREETS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.

I KNOW EVERY ROOFTOP, ALLEY, AND STREET CORNER LIKE THE BACK OF MY—

WHAM

TANGLE.

HEYA, RON. A COUPLE OF CHILIDOGS TO GO...?

LATER—JEWEL'S MINERAL MUSEUM.

HOW'S YOUR HEAD?

NOT AS SORE AS MY PRIDE. AMBUSHED BY A STATIONARY OBJECT. HOW EMBARRASSING IS THAT?

TO BE FAIR, IT WAS HIDING IN FRONT OF A STREET LAMP. CLEARLY IT WAS OUT TO GET YOU.

HA HA OW HA HA

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN... PRECOCIOUS... BUT YOU'VE BEEN BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS LATELY.

LITERALLY *AND* FIGURATIVELY.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING A PEST, IT'S JUST...

...AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WITH SONIC, THINGS ARE SO *BORING* HERE!

I FOUGHT ROBOT INVASIONS! FLYING BATTLE SHIPS!

I MET A FIERY PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

I PULLED THE WINGS OFF A GIANT ROBO-DRAGON!

AND I COME HOME TO PEACE AND QUIET. I CAN'T STAND IT.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT. SO WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM BEING LIKE SONIC? GOING OUT THERE AND FINDING YOUR OWN ADVENTURES?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT. SURE, IT'S *TEMPTING*, BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN HERE?

EGGMAN'S ROBOTS ATTACKED ONCE.*

IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #4.

AND IT'D BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'D BE FLYING SOLO. LONELY BEFORE YOU EVEN LEAVE?

THAT, AND NERVOUS. I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU TO WATCH MY BACK.

-INFO-

SPLASH

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE BABYLON ROGUES CAME BACK!*

I'LL CHECK IT OUT! YOU HIDE AND TRY NOT TO LOOK EXPENSIVE— *HAHA!*

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ANNUAL 2019.

SONIC?

SONIC UNDER ATTACK?!

SONIC UNDER ATTACK FROM *WHISPER*?!

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THE HEDGEHOG

TANGLE & WHISPER

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

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